

Bissell, George E.

DRAWER 23

Sculptors - B
(Stofuettes)


71, 2009, 085, 03020

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

George Edwin Bissell
Statuettes

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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life size head
Lincoln bronze 29"
1809-1865

by George Edwin Bissell
born New-Preston Conn 1839
in Marble Business & sculptor
at Poughkeepsie age 26
when Lincoln died 1865

Studied Rome Paris & Florence
died 1920 age 81

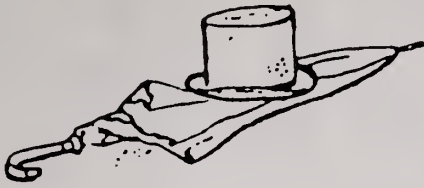
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Lincolns by sculptor
who saw him when he
lived

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LINCOLN, ABRAHAM (1809-1865)

Sixteenth President, United States, 1861-1865

[Statuette]

BISSELL, GEORGE EDWIN (1839-1920)

*American Sculptor; born New Preston, Connecticut
Served with 23rd Connecticut Infantry 1863-1864
Assistant Paymaster, U. S. Navy, 1864-1865
Joined his father and brother in the marble business, Poughkeepsie, New York, 1865
Received commission for his first life-size statue in marble 1871
Studied in Paris, Florence and Rome, 1875-1876
Returned to America and devoted himself to portrait sculpture, 1876-1883
Studied and worked in Europe, 1883-1896
Created his statue of Abraham Lincoln which was unveiled on August 21, 1893 in The Old Carleton Burial Ground, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Replica of the Edinburgh statue dedicated at Claremont, Iowa, 1903*

Bronze statuette, cast by Gorham Company,
New York City
Signed, "Geo. E. Bissell"

60.0 centimeters high; marked, "Copyright, 1898."

rgn/ \$2,250.00

Heritage Auction Galleries

Rushmore sculptor Gutzon Borglum, cast with 1086 ounces of pure silver. From of an edition of 56, it was authorized by the Borglum Historical Foundation in 1995 and produced by the Silversmiths Group USA, in conjunction with the Liberty Mint. The auction house noted that the work, which measured approximately 21" high x 26" wide, was the first known to have been sold at auction.

A 27" high Lincoln bust made by Thomas D. Jones in 1861 and considered one of the finest sculptural images of Lincoln, according to the auction house, sold for \$11,950. It was executed while Lincoln still resided in Springfield, Illinois. "The president-elect agreed to pose, and within a couple of days, Jones was established in a temporary studio in the St. Nicholas Hotel. Lincoln came each morning for a number of one hour sittings. He used this time to read mail and write speeches for his journey to Washington, 'using one knee as a writing table,' as Jones recorded. The sculptor remained in Springfield until summer to complete his work, and thought that the emerging bust was a great achievement. He felt that photographs of Lincoln had always failed to give a true impression of the man. When he asked Lincoln for his opinion, he thought for a while and replied 'I think it looks very much like the critter.' Later critics have acclaimed this as one of the great Lincoln sculptures, truly lifelike, and the only one to portray him with a happy visage," the catalog noted.

Bringing \$9560 was a second Lincoln bronze bust by Jones, sculpted in 1864 in Washington, but this one depicted the president weary from the Civil War. The work was 20" tall and rested on a green marble base.

Other Lincoln bronzes included a Roman Bronze Works 10¾" bust mounted on a green marble base by Adolph Weinman, who designed the Walking Liberty half dollar and the Mercury dime, that sold for \$10,157.50; The Emancipator statuette, 16¾", hollow cast by George Edwin Bissell, 1898, with a foundry mark of E. Gruet, Paris, \$9560; an 8½" solid bronze statue by Gorham Company, showing Lincoln with a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation in his right hand, \$7767.50; and a circa 1909 high-relief plaque, 14¾" x 11½", by Victor D. Brenner, who designed the Lincoln cent, \$7170. Works such as Brenner's plaque and Weinman's bust were ripe to attract bidders from outside the field of political collecting.

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